IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 25 (Canceled)

26.   (New) A method of encoding words for language teaching, the method comprising:

identifying a plurality of different vowel sounds each capable of representation in a word by one or more vowel letter representations, each of the one or more vowel letter representations including one or more letter characters;

assigning each of the plurality of different vowel sounds a unique vowel sound number such that all of the plurality of different vowel sounds are assigned a unique vowel sound number;

assigning a single vowel color to the plurality of different vowel sounds;

storing the unique vowel sound numbers and the single vowel color for the plurality of different vowel sounds;

identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds each capable of representation in a word by one or more consonant letter representations, each of the one or more consonant letter representations including one or more letter characters;

assigning each of the plurality of consonant sounds a consonant color that is different from the single vowel color;

storing the consonant color for the plurality of different consonant sounds;

identifying one or more silent letters occurring in words;

assigning the one or more silent letters a silent letter color that is different from the consonant color and the single vowel color;

storing the silent letter color for the one or more silent letters;

wherein letter characters of vowel letter representations of words are represented by the single vowel color, each vowel letter representation of words is represented by a unique vowel sound number corresponding to the vowel sound for the vowel letter representation, letter characters of consonant letter representations of words are represented by the consonant color, and silent letters of words are represented by the silent letter color.

27.   (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein one or more of the plurality of different consonant sounds comprises one or more consonant diagraphs.

28.   (New) A method according to claim 27, wherein each of the one or more consonant diagraphs is represented in words having one or the one or more consonant diagraphs by an underscore located underneath the letters of the consonant diagraph.

29.   (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein said identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds includes identifying one or more letters that have a consonant sound that is different than a default sound for the one or more letters and further representing the consonant sound that is different than a default sound by a symbol.

30.   (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein the symbol is represented as a superscript to the corresponding one or more letters.

31.   (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein said identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds includes identifying one or more groups of a plurality of consonant letter representations having the same consonant sound.

32.   (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising representing each of the one or more groups by a notation indicative of the pronunciation of the corresponding consonant sound.

33.   (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein each of the unique vowel sound numbers is represented by the single vowel color.

34.   (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein said identifying a plurality of different vowel sounds includes identifying one or more vowel sounds that are capable of representation in words by a combination of letter characters and representing the combination of letter characters by the corresponding unique vowel sound number.

35.   (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising displaying one or more words with the letter characters of vowel letter representations having the single vowel color, each vowel letter representation having a unique vowel sound number corresponding to the vowel sound for the vowel letter representation, the letter characters of consonant letter representations having the consonant color, and silent letters having the silent letter color.

36.   (New) A method according to claim 35, further comprising displaying a matrix with sounds of one type along one axis and sounds of another type along another.

37.   (New) A method according to claim 36, further comprising displaying a composite of sounds from each axis by a zone corresponding to a point of intersection of the sounds on the matrix.

38.   (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising searching for words including one or more of at least one of the plurality of different vowel sounds, at least one of the plurality of different consonant sounds, and at least one of the plurality of different silent letters.

39.   (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising representing different strengths of one or more select vowel sounds of the plurality of different vowel sounds in one or more words by different levels of brightness or boldness of the single vowel color.

40.   (New) A method according to claim 26, further comprising representing different strengths of consonant sounds in one or more words by different levels of brightness or boldness of the consonant color.

41.   (New) A system for teaching a language, the system comprising:

a database which stores:

a plurality of different vowel sounds each capable of representation in a word by one or more vowel letter representations, each of the one or more vowel letter representations including one or more letter characters, each of the plurality of different vowel sounds being represented by a unique vowel sound number and the plurality of different vowel sounds being represented by a single vowel sound color;

a plurality of different consonant sounds, each of the plurality of different consonant sounds represented by a consonant color that is different from the single vowel sound color;

a plurality of different silent letters occurring in words, each of the plurality of different silent letters represented by a silent letter color that is different from the single vowel sound color and the consonant color; and

a plurality of different words;

a conversion means for converting each of the plurality of words into a converted form comprising any letter characters of vowel letter representations having the single vowel color, any vowel letter representations having a unique vowel sound number

corresponding to the vowel sound for the vowel letter representation, any letter characters of consonant letter representations having the consonant color, and any silent letters having the silent letter color; and

a display means for displaying a word in converted form, the conversion means being adapted to convert a word input into the system and utilize the display means to display the word in converted form.

42. (New) A computer readable medium including instructions for executing a method of encoding words for language teaching, the instructions comprising:

a set of instructions for representing each of a plurality of different vowel sounds by a unique vowel sound number, each of the plurality of different vowel sounds capable of representation in a word by one or more vowel letter representations, each of the one or more vowel letter representations including one or more letter characters;

a set of instructions for representing the plurality of different vowel sounds by a single vowel sound color;

a set of instructions for representing each of a plurality of different consonant sounds by a consonant color that is different from the single vowel sound color, each of the plurality of different consonant sounds capable of representation in a word by one or more consonant letter representations, each of the one or more consonant letter representations including one or more letter characters;

a set of instructions for representing each of one or more silent letters by a silent letter color that is different from the single vowel sound color and the consonant color;

a set of instructions for displaying one or more words such that the one or more words comprise any letter characters of vowel letter representations having the single vowel color, any vowel letter representations having a unique vowel sound number corresponding to the vowel sound for the vowel letter representation, any letter characters of consonant letter representations having the consonant color, and any silent letters having the silent letter color.